

would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 369, on Passage of H.R. 739, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 370, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 371, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 372, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act of 2005, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered two bills under suspension of the rules: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC on Monday because the Jackson-Evers International Airport in Jackson, Mississippi, from which I usually travel to DC, was closed due to the recent landfall of Hurricane Dennis. However, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING SPC CHRISTOPHER LEE HOSKINS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the service and sacrifice of a brave young soldier from my district, SPC Christopher Lee Hoskins, who gave his life in the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. I also pay tribute to SPC Hoskins' family, who raised this fine young man in an environment of loving care and who supported his decision to serve his country in uniform in Iraq.

On June 21, Army SPC Christopher Hoskins, of Killingly, Connecticut, was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, after his unit came under small arms fire west of Baghdad. The death of SPC Hoskins, who was a member of the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, marked the 25th death of a Connecticut soldier in the war in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

SPC Hoskins was 21 years old. He, along with so many other fine young men and women from across our Nation, was serving America and the cause of freedom by fighting terrorism and helping to bring stability to a part of the world that for far too long has known mainly violence and misery.

SPC Hoskins graduated from Killingly High School in 2001. He enlisted in the Army in

2003. He had recently re-enlisted for another four years.

In many ways, SPC Hoskins was typical of most American youths. His friends recalled that he was generous and polite; he enjoyed listening to Metallica; he played chess and was a member of his high school wrestling team; he enjoyed painting and he worked the cameras at school plays.

And in many ways he was typical of the men and women who preceded him as members of our Nation's armed forces. This was a young man who wanted to serve a cause larger than himself.

This was a young man who did not have to place himself in harm's way but volunteered to do so in service to our Nation, our people and the way of life that we treasure. America is a better place because of young men like Army SPC Christopher Hoskins.

We cannot repay the debt we owe Christopher Hoskins; we can only honor him and his family. And we do.

Memorial Day was set aside as the day when Americans remember those who left their homes, families and jobs to defend our Nation—and never returned. But our men and women in uniform defend freedom every day, and every day there are those who pay the ultimate price for their selflessness. It would be highly appropriate if we took a moment out of every day to honor and remember the men and women who stand between America and those who would do her harm.

Today, July 14, 2005 SPC Hoskins was interred at Arlington National Cemetery overlooking Washington, D.C. with full military honors. He will posthumously receive a Purple Heart for his wounds and a Bronze Star for his valor. SPC Hoskins will rest in good company, among others who answered the call to duty, honor and country.

We pray that the service and sacrifice of SPC Hoskins will remind us of the high cost which is paid by those who love our freedom, who believe in our democracy and who give their best to defend the best Nation on Earth. May God rest his soul.

FREEDOM FOR ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ RAGA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alejandro González Raga, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Raga is an independent journalist and a contributor to the Camagüey Press Agency. As an independent journalist in a totalitarian Cuba, Mr. González Raga's truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his belief in factual reporting, Mr. González Raga relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression. I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

In March, 2003, Mr. González Raga was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous

crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. According to Reporters Without Borders, as part of his sham trial, Mr. González Raga was accused of "cooperating with the foreign press," and of "systematically endangering territorial integrity" by writing reports on subjects considered "very sensitive" by the dictatorship such as "shortages due to the economic crisis, relations with other countries, TV programs, the education budget." He was sentenced to 14 years in Castro's dungeons for these "crimes."

Let me be very clear, Mr. González Raga is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alejandro González Raga and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

MONMOUTH COUNTY'S BEN
DANSKIN CELEBRATES 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best and warmest wishes to a good friend and constituent, Mr. Benjamin H. Danskin, who today celebrates his 80th birthday.

Ben Danskin has been a key figure in government service, public advocacy and business development in Monmouth County, New Jersey for more than 50 years. He is respected, admired and well-liked by colleagues, associates and former political rivals. His family and close friends are inspired by his wit, good nature, character, charisma and kindness.

Born and raised in Spring Lake, New Jersey, Ben and his older brother, Clyde, learned the importance of public service through their father's example. Their father, Benjamin S. Danskin, was a realtor with Horatio Clayton Real Estate and Insurance, which he later bought and named the Danskin Agency. Successful in business, Benjamin S. Danskin also succeeded in the public arena. He served as the Secretary of the State Division of Tax Appeals, President of the New Jersey Association of Tax Commissioners, and Deputy Director of Taxation, assisting in the creation of the state tax equalization program. Government service would become a family trait.

In September 1943, young Ben Danskin joined the Army as a Lieutenant and began training to become a B-25 bomber pilot. When World War II ended, Ben enrolled in the Dickinson College to pursue a degree in political